

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 INR-05 SP-02 L-01

PRS-01 PM-03 RSC-01 /047 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8818

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3371

LIMDIS

NOFORN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NZ

SUBJECT: SUTCH CASE COMMITTED TO SUPREME COURT

REF: WELLINGTON 3363

1. PROSECUTION IN SUTCH CASE COMPLETED TESTIMONY IN MAGISTRATES COURT OCTOBER 24 WITH NOTHING OF INTEREST BEING ADDED TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL. SUTCH PLEADED NOT GUILTY AND CASE WAS COMMITTED TO SUPREME COURT FOR TRIAL AT YET TO BE DETERMINED DATE.

2. DEFENSE DID NOT MAKE DIRECT ATTEMPT TO REBUT EVIDENCE PRESENTED. HOWEVER, THROUGH QUESTIONING OF PROSECUTION WITNESS DEFENSE ATTORNEY DID BRING TO LIGHT RECENT SUTCH LETTER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL FINLAY IN WHICH SUTCH STATED REASON FOR HIS MEETINGS WITH SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL WAS TO DISCUSS ZIONIST MOVEMENT IN NEW ZEALAND. SUTCH SAID SOVIETS HAD ASKED HIM TO DISCUSS
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THIS ISSUE AND HE WAS INTRIGUED BY APPROACH. HE STATED

THAT HIS SOLE MOTIVE FOR MEETING RUSSIAN OFFICIAL WAS TO FIND OUT WHAT HE HAD TO SAY. HAD IT BEEN OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE HE WOULD HAVE PASSED IT ON TO APPROPRIATE GNZ AUTHORITY.

3. IN RELATED ISSUE, PM ROWLING INFORMED PRESS OCTOBER 24 THAT HE HAD CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE SEPTEMBER 27 AND INFORMED HIM THAT TWO MEMBERS OF USSR EMBASSY (PERTSEV AND RAZGOVOROV) HAD ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THEIR STATUS AS MEMBERS OF A FOREIGN MISSION. ROWLING NOTED THAT HE HAD ASKED SOVIET CHARGE TO INSURE THAT RAZGOVOROV AND PERTSEV REMAINED ON THE PREMISES OF SOVIET EMBASSY WHILE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST NEW ZEALAND CITIZEN UNDER OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT WERE BEFORE THE COURTS. MEDIA HAVE CHARACTERIZED SOVIET OFFICIALS' DEPARTUE FROM NEW ZEALAND AS DEFIANCE OF ROWLING'S REQUEST. USSR EMBASSY INFORMATION OFFICER O P BENJUKH "RESOLUTELY DECLINED" TO AGREE THAT RAZOVOROV AND PERTSEV WERE ENGAGED IN "UNPERMITTED ACTIVITIES." WHILE PERTSEV'S DEPARTURE WAS BILLED AS USUAL END OF TOUR, RAZGOVOROV'S HAS BEEN CALLED A VACATION BY SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS. BENJUKH, WHEN QUERIED BY PRESS INDICATED USUAL VACATION WAS THIRTY DAYS BUT COULD BE EXTENDED FOR "MEDICAL REASONS".

4. COMMENT - SUTCH CASE IS MAKING LIFE RATHER EMBARRASSING FOR SOVIET EMBASSY IN GENERAL AND FOR NEWLY ARRIVED (OCTOBER 18) AMBASSADOR O.P. SELYANINOV IN PARTICULAR.
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